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The Christian Science College Organization (CSO) at the University of Douala, formed just 2 years ago, already has seven fulltime, active members. ABF met with the University's top administrators, as well as with Gisele Yitamben, founder of Asafe Knowledge Academy. Started in 1988 as a micro-finance institution providing credit to women, AKA now offers IT courses leading to Cisco and Microsoft certification. ABF expects to offer grants to students of both institutions. Gisele's husband, Jean-Paul, served as Warren and Nancy's driver and constant guide while in Cameroon.

Gisele also arranged for an interview with a local journalist, a Christian Scientist, for the Douala newspaper and radio station. He promised, if they come again, to interview them on Cameroon national television!

#### THE ALBERT BAKER SCHOLAR

A publication of The Albert Baker Fund, a tax-exempt loan and grant fund helping Christian Scientists obtain a higher education.

The Albert Baker Fund is an independent non-profit corporation. Our mission is to serve the Cause of Christian Science and mankind by providing resources for the education of Christian Scientists. Donations to The Albert Baker Fund are accepted as unrestricted for program use. One hundred percent of donations go to helping students. Interest on investment pays for all administration, fundraising and operating expenses.

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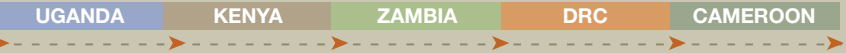
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#### Itinerary:



### ABF and Christian Science in Africa

Country	ZAMBIA	UGANDA	KENYA	BENIN	DRC	CAMEROON
Churches	1	0	2	0	5	4
Societies	1	2	7	1	13	5
CSOs	0	1	2	0	2	2
CSBs	0	0	1	0	1	0
Practitioners	0	0	6	1	12	12
Date of ABF Start-up	2004	2005	2006	2006	2008	2008
ABF Students to Date	11	19	11	1	0	0

We hope you've enjoyed reading about Warren Berckmann and Nancy Battey's ground-laying visit to Africa, and we know you'll agree the expanded work ABF is doing there as well as in the United States, Canada, and (soon) Germany, France and the United Kingdom, is worthy of your continued support. Please send your donation using the enclosed postage-paid remittance envelope and/or mail it to The Albert Baker Fund, Dept. AN-08, 777 Campus Commons Road, Suite 165, Sacramento, CA 95825. One hundred percent of your donation will go to helping students.

THE  
ALBERT

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# SCHOLAR

Special African Report

July 2008

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE ALBERT BAKER FUND



## ABF Breaks New Ground in Africa and Europe

The Albert Baker Fund (ABF) took a giant step forward last November when President Nancy Battey and CEO Warren Berckmann made a personal on-site pre-launch investigation of ABF infrastructure and Christian Science organizations in two African countries where new ABF student grant operations are to be launched this fall—Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Nancy and Warren also toured existing ABF operations in Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia, and laid the groundwork for new operations also to come in 2008 in Germany, France and the United Kingdom.

To date, over 40 college-level students have been helped by ABF grants in four African countries: Kenya, the Republic of Benin, Uganda and Zambia. Operations there are overseen by ABF Africa Representative Lamech Katamba, who accompanied Nancy and Warren throughout their visit.

This expansion is a long-term grass roots effort undertaken by ABF. Africans with higher education win good jobs in government and the private sector and often rise quickly to decision-making positions. By having the means to attain this education and therefore positions of influence, Christian Science Africans will have a unique opportunity to bless others and bring a healing perspective to the problems they encounter. In addition, religion and church membership are increasingly popular topics in Africa, and co-workers who admire their example often ask where they attend church. Many find Christian Science in this way. Further, better employment empowers them economically and they are able to contribute more to their local Christian Science branch churches and societies.

The three visitors from ABF attended services in Cameroon at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Douala. The tin roofed

church and Sunday School are modest, the need for more Christian Science literature in French is apparent, and there are no musical instruments (members hummed), but joy and gratitude for Christian Science healing fills the church.

Not yet officially recognized by the government, Christian Science is nevertheless growing rapidly in Cameroon. At a meeting under mangrove trees next to the Congo River (*photos above right*) local Christian Scientists said 20-25 Cameroon students may already qualify for new ABF grants.

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*Shown above left are Nancy, Warren and Lamech with CSO students at the University of Douala in Cameroon. Below, a school bus on the campus.*





# Zambia

Unlike Cameroon, where ABF aid to students starts this autumn, Zambia has hosted an active ABF program since 2004. Already, ABF has provided financial aid to 11 students in Zambian institutions of higher education, most for several years.

In Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, Nancy and Warren were met by ABF Zambia Regional Vice President and ABF student Masauso Mtolo. In July of this year, Masauso was named COP for Zambia.

After Sunday services at First Church, Lusaka—one of two Christian Science churches/societies in Zambia—Nancy, Warren, and Lamech met with students and members interested in ABF. They also lunched with Catherine Mwanamwambwa, former C.S. Committee on Publication for Zambia, currently First Reader at the Lusaka church, wife of the head of the Zambian National Assembly, and a successful entrepreneur in her own right. Her insights on the local Christian Science community were immeasurably helpful.

Later meetings included one with Dr. Rao, CEO of the Zambian Center for Accountancy Studies. Most ABF students to date have attended this school. Focusing on international accountancy and business studies, it is one of the most respected universities of its kind in Africa, broadly recognized and highly rated by employers in Africa; 60% to 70% of its graduates are hired before or immediately upon graduation. ABF aid to ZCAS students is having a broad and direct effect on Zambia’s future.



Top photo left to right: Masauso, Warren and Lamech in the marketplace. Bottom photo: Masauso Mtolo, ABF RVP and COP for Zambia, with Lamech Katamba.

*Zambia has hosted an active ABF program since 2004. Already, ABF has provided financial aid to 11 students in Zambian institutions of higher education, most for several years.*



# Uganda

Begun in 2005, the ABF program in Uganda has already aided 19 students, and ABF students and alumni now make up almost the entire membership of the Christian Science Society in Kampala as well as the CSO at Makerere University. Most are in their 20s and early 30s.

The visit to Uganda began with an exciting meeting at the Kampala Sheraton Hotel with present and former ABF students who were eager to express their heartfelt gratitude to ABF for making their education possible. Later, in Jinja, near the source of the Nile, ABF gave a dinner under a tree for present and former students and their families, as well as members of the Christian Science Society of Jinja. ABF’s program in Uganda was eagerly discussed by all.

The next day Warren and Nancy joined Kampala Society’s members for their regular Saturday testimony meeting in the gardens of the guest house at Makerere University, followed by Sunday services the next day at the Kampala YMCA, where they learned that Ugandans are legally prohibited from joining a church until they are 18.

One day they met with the registrar, assistant bursar, and representatives of the finance department at Makerere University, one of the most respected universities in Africa with more than 30,000 students. There they learned of an exciting new opportunity for ABF: Much of Makerere’s limited student housing is being phased out because of age and poor condition. Makerere officials said the university could assure payment for ABF students who were accepted for university-accredited housing. This will allow ABF to pick up more of the true education costs for more students who come from villages and for whom living at home is not an option.

Makerere administrators were impressed that ABF came to meet with them, and Lamech said he believed this will make a big difference in working out future ABF issues with the university. The group also visited New Horizons/Techno Brain Uganda Ltd., an international computer and accounting training school, where ABF aids a number of students.

# Kenya

Nancy and Warren met current and prospective ABF students at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi. Joseph Kamengu, featured on CS Sentinel radio programs, ABF RVP Marjorie Scherer, CSB, and Jared Ambugo Ogega, local representative of The Mother Church Clerk and Treasurer’s office, also attended. Later they visited New Horizons/Techno Brain Kenya Ltd wearing the Techno Brain shirts given to them in Uganda and made quite an impression. They also visited local bankers who confirmed they have no problems handling ABF grants. Each college within a university has a different bank, which has implications for how ABF will handle grant disbursements for students. Lastly, Nancy and Warren met with the registrar while visiting the University of Nairobi.



Top 2 photos: ABF dinner in Jinja for current and prospective ABF students and alumni, their families, and local church members.

Lower 2 photos: Current ABF students and alumni in Kampala.





*Makengo and family at his school*



*Scolaire La Tendresse teachers and students (middle and bottom photos)*

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

*ABF operations in the DRC are scheduled to begin this autumn.*



*Makengo Ma Pululu*

Because Ugandan Lamech Katamba, an invaluable guide (and photographer) throughout the trip, was denied a visa into the DRC, Nancy and Warren were forced to proceed alone. They were met at the airport by Christian Scientists Daniel Mfumu and Makengo Ma Pululu, the Christian Science Committee on Publication for the DRC, who waved copies of *Science & Health* to identify themselves!

In a meeting at the Grand Hotel, Ma Pululu, Mfumu (an attorney), Modest Nsingani (Assistant COP), Mayal Tshiabuila (local representative of The Mother Church Clerk's Office), and Benjamin Lukombo (geology professor at the University of Nairobi) informed ABF that certain changes in the ABF business model will be needed in the DRC in order to operate there, as universities don't have bank accounts.

The group proposed formation of a committee of local Christian Scientists to protect ABF funds when the program begins this fall.

Nancy and Warren later toured schools run by Tshiabuila and Ma Pululu for orphans and refugee children, adult literacy, and sewing. Both men are former English professors, and their schools demonstrated the difficulties of education in the DRC. Neither school had heat, lights, books, pens or paper. Children attend school half a day, and lessons are given on chalk boards.

At Wednesday evening service in 2nd Church, Kinshasa, the congregation was mostly men; only 2 women attended. As in other African countries visited, not many women are educated here, and consequently do not know French—the public language in which services are conducted. Fortunately, *Science and Health* with *Key to the Scriptures* is presently being translated into Lingali, the local language. After the service, a meeting was held with the board to discuss what ABF does and how local students can qualify for international ABF grants.



*Meeting with Board, 2nd Church, Kinshasa*

*Christian Science was recognized by the government in 2005. Science & Health is being translated into Lingali, a native language.*

Other meetings included a dinner with active Christian Scientists Nestor and Leonie Diambwana. Nestor is DRC Finance Minister and a poet recognized by UNESCO for his many peace-making ideas. Crocodile, elephant, and caterpillars were served and the finance minister talked about the practicality of Christian Science in his government work. Warren and Nancy also visited "Femme et Enfant," Leonie's non-profit UNICEF-recognized school that trains DRC women in employment skills.

Back at the hotel they met with Makanga Kianga, CSB, and the Mother Church Treasurer's local representative Leontine Nganu, with regard to the launch of the ABF program in the DRC.

Nancy and Warren also met and discussed ABF's programs with leading educators at the DRC's three largest universities:

- ◆ The **president** of the University of Kinshasha, a 30,000 student campus, whose office had no computer, no typewriter, no books nor book shelves, no file cabinets, no pads of paper.
- ◆ **Dr. Ngoy Boliya**, CEO of Protestant University, a joint venture of four US Protestant churches. Dr. Boliya will tour ABF offices in Sacramento next December when he comes to visit his son, a student at the University of California at Davis, just 25 miles from ABF's headquarters.
- ◆ **Dr. Kambray**, head of the 9,500-student University of Pedagogy. Dr. Kambray said he first learned about Mary Baker Eddy when he studied in the United States. He read every book about her he could find, and said there is a copy of *Science and Health* in every office of his university, largely due to the work of COP Makengo Ma Pululu.

Nancy and Warren also held a Q&A session with 25 CSO students from three DRC universities. Understandably they had many questions about the Albert Baker Fund and about how they can qualify and apply.



*Mayal Tshiabuila, his daughter and Daniel Mfumu who took vacation to guide Warren and Nancy in the DRC. (L to R in photo)*



*Mayal's school, Les Ecoles du Coeur. In the background, boxes of Science and Health stacked to the ceiling.*

*With Dr. Kambray and staff at the University of Pedagogy*



*CSO students at the University of Kinshasa*



*CSO students from three DRC universities*





ABF VIPs in Africa



**Nancy Dorsey** is the Founder and Chair of the Uganda Project, a grass roots program to assist Christian Scientists in Uganda. Thanks to Nancy's help and guidance, ABF was able to jump-start its international grant program in Africa. She also was of great assistance in planning our Africa trip.



**Marjorie Scherer** was a Christian Science Practitioner and Teacher who dedicated her life to serving the Cause of Christian Science in Africa for 30 years. She was of inestimable help to us in starting our international grant program in Africa as well as in detailed planning of our trip to these 5 African countries. Sadly, Marjorie passed early in 2008.



Meeting in Paris on the way to Africa with soon-to-be ABF representatives from France, Germany and the United Kingdom.



**Masauso Mtolo**, ABF RVP and new COP for Zambia with **Lamech Katamba**, ABF's Africa Representative.



**Gisele Yitamben** (shown with Nancy Battey) serves as ABF advisor in Cameroon.



**Leroy Scherer**, in Nairobi, is now RVP for Kenya, replacing his recently deceased wife Marjorie.

African Students Send Thanks To You

“I’d like to give a lot of thanks to the ABF and the whole committee. You have really shown us love. Thank you very much for having such a big heart for all of us.”

—OLIVIA TALEMWA NALUGWA  
Uganda

“I am a student at Kinyatta University taking a Masters in Business Administration. I serve in the church as 2nd Reader and I am on the Executive Board. I’m very, very grateful to the ABF for what it has done for me.”

—BELINDA MUHEMBERE LIKHANGA  
Kenya

“I think by learning more about Christian Science we shall know how to relate that love to mankind. ABF has shown this love, and we owe gratitude to them.”

—JACQUE NAMUSALISI  
Uganda

“Too many people are saying too many things and doing nothing. They are attached to the messenger and not the message. Most of the things we are doing when we are discussing with them is explaining what God really is.”

—CSO STUDENT  
Cameroon



What We Learned

*We asked ABF President Nancy Battey what was learned from the trip, and the implications for future ABF programs and policies in Africa.*

We learned much about how things work differently in the African countries we visited. Cultural differences are, of course, large but even simple things prolong the process and make it difficult to conduct business.

Travel takes longer due to poor roads and few air flights; telephone networks, banks and the internet break down frequently and can’t be depended upon; obtaining cash is challenging because credit cards are not widely used. People are always running to ATMs, which regularly run out of cash and break down.

More importantly we learned that:

- ◆ In-person meetings are extremely important in Africa. Africans are pleased and impressed when people visit them; perhaps because few foreign organizations do. Such meetings with local university leaders, bankers and Christian Scientists can help ABF grow its programs in Africa more effectively.
- ◆ There are many worthy young Christian Scientists in Africa who can be helped by ABF grants for higher and vocational education. These students are the future of Christian Science in Africa, and likely to become leaders in their countries. *(The July 7, 2008 Christian Science Sentinel reports that, for the first time ever, there were more new Mother Church members from Africa than all of North America.)*
- ◆ Because of what was learned, ABF will be able to refine its application process to better select worthy African students and to protect ABF funds.
- ◆ The DRC program requires a different financial model because colleges there do not have bank accounts.
- ◆ It is essential to have a local support system on the ground in each country.
- ◆ African universities can often disburse payments for housing, enabling ABF to help students in a larger, safer way.
- ◆ ABF was impressed with the abilities of our African program leader Lamech Katamba. His capabilities and commitment are solid.

We helped to increase the visibility and awareness of both the Albert Baker Fund and of Christian Science in each country we visited. We believe we achieved not only what we set out to do, but even exceeded our own expectations.

Receive a **FREE** DVD of ABF’s visit to Africa, narrated by Nancy and Warren. See Lamech, African RVPs, African students and African Christian Science churches, societies and CSOs in Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. To order, call 800 269.0388 or e-mail your name and address with the words “African DVD” to [abf@albertbakerfund.org](mailto:abf@albertbakerfund.org).



*(photos top to bottom) Lamech's extended family in his village; Lamech and his mother at her home; a typical hut in the village.*